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2010 APR -1 PM 1:12

**CITY OF OAKLAND**  
**AGENDA REPORT**

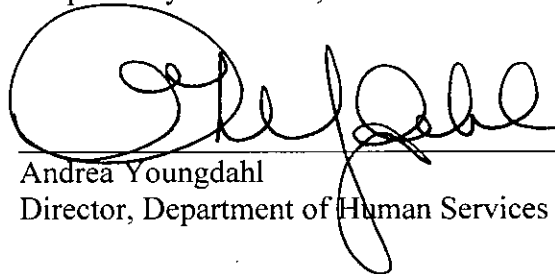
TO: Office of the City Administrator  
ATTN: Dan Lindheim  
FROM: Department of Human Services  
DATE: April 13, 2010

RE: **Annual Update From The Mayor's Commission On Aging And Request For Approval Of Bylaw Revision**

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Attached is the Annual update from the Mayor's Commission on Aging and request for approval of Bylaw revision. Department of Human Services staff and a representative from the Mayor's Commission on Aging will be available to answer questions.

Respectfully submitted,

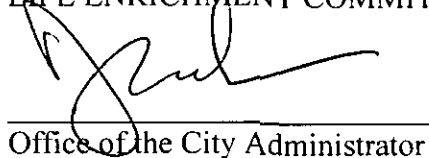


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Andrea Youngdahl  
Director, Department of Human Services

Attachments

FORWARDED TO THE  
LIFE ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE:



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Office of the City Administrator

Item: \_\_\_\_\_  
Life Enrichment Committee  
April 13, 2010

LIFE ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE  
Oakland City Council

**RE: Annual Update From The Mayor's Commission On Aging And Request For Approval  
Of Bylaw Revision**

**Chairperson Brooks and Members of the Committee:**

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**SUMMARY**

This report provides the City Council with information about the activities of the Mayor's Commission on Aging during the calendar years 2008 and 2009. The Report includes a recommendation from the Commission on Aging that the City Council approve certain changes to the Commission on Aging Bylaws.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

This is an informational report with no fiscal impact at this time.

**BACKGROUND**

The Mayor's Commission on Aging was established in 1980 by Ordinance No. 9921 C.M.S. The primary role of the Commission on Aging is to identify issues of importance to Oakland's senior residents and support programs in the Oakland Department of Human Services. Ordinance No. 11982 C.M.S. establishes the Commission's authority to provide policy guidance to the City's four Multipurpose Senior Centers.

The Commission on Aging works in partnership with the Department of Human Services to plan for, advocate, and develop senior resources to address the needs of the City's senior citizens. Until the funding was eliminated in the 2009-2011 Policy Budget, one of the primary tools used by the Commission on Aging to address unmet needs of Oakland seniors was to target annual funding of approximately \$290,000 generated by the \$2 Parking Ticket Set-Aside program to local senior service providers which allowed seniors more access to programs and resources.

**Commission on Aging Membership:**

The Commission on Aging is chartered for 11 members, appointed by the Mayor to a maximum of two three-year terms, subject to Council approval. The current Commission membership represents the diverse communities in the City of Oakland. Since the last Report to Council in May 2008, one new Commissioner, Karen Anderson, was appointed, three commissioners resigned and two commissioners were termed out. At this time there are eight members of the Commission on Aging and three vacancies. Two of the eight members are awaiting reappointment and four commissioners will term out between September and December of 2010.

<b>COMMISSION ON AGING CURRENT MEMBERS:</b>				
<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Term Begin</b>	<b>Term End</b>	<b>Term Status</b>
Antoinette	Warren Williams	9/3/2008	9/2/2011	2 <sup>nd</sup> term
Annie	McCoy	11/24/2007	11/23/2010	2 <sup>nd</sup> term
Alphonso	Galloway	9/2/2007	9/3/2010	2 <sup>nd</sup> term
Trung Duy	Nguyen	9/2/2007	9/1/2010	2 <sup>nd</sup> term
Donna	Griggs-Murphy	9/2/2007	9/2/2010	2 <sup>nd</sup> term
Wade	Sherwood	9/3/2007	9/3/2010	1 <sup>st</sup> term
Ernest	Hardmon	9/3/2006	9/2/2009	Awaiting reappointment
Karen	Anderson	3/5/2009	9/1/2009	Awaiting reappointment

## KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

The Commission has actively maintained an interest in issues affecting the lives of Oakland senior citizens during the past year. Three standing committees and a Steering Committee have overseen grants to senior service organizations, advocated for public funding, worked closely with Oakland senior centers and supported various senior-related activities in the community.

The oversight of the Senior Services Set-Aside grants has been a key activity of the Commission Community Support Committee. In 2007 and 2008, Committee members developed a monitoring tool and visited each of the grantees to identify issues and assess how the grant funds were being utilized. Information from the monitoring tool was made available to the Commissioner Set-Aside Review Committee, to better inform decision-making for the 2008-09 review.

The Community Support Committee worked closely with the Oakland senior centers during the reporting period. On two occasions, Community Support Committee members served on grievance committees at the senior centers, successfully resolving substantive communication issues between center members. In 2009, members of the Community Support Committee and representatives from each of the senior center advisory councils reviewed and revised the Oakland Senior Center Advisory Council bylaws. The new bylaws were approved by each of the senior center advisory councils in November 2009. Each month the Commission receives informational reports from the staff of the Oakland multipurpose senior centers and the centers that receive funding from the City to provide site-based services to Oakland senior residents. Those contractors include the Fruitvale San Antonio Senior Center, the Hong Lok Senior Center, the Vietnamese Community Development Senior Center and the Vietnamese American Community Center of the East Bay Senior Center.

The Access Committee focuses on underserved or under-recognized communities including lesbian/gay/bisexual/ transgender and ethnic populations, frail seniors, and un-employed seniors. The Access Committee also works with many Oakland senior service providers to identify gaps in service and advise DHS staff about program and policy issues. Members of the Access Committee identify barriers to, and increase availability of services and programs for Oakland's senior residents. In 2008 and 2009 Access Committee members responded to a request from the DHS ASSETS program and supported the successful application for federal funding to increase the City's job training services for older adults.

In 2008 and 2009 the Commission on Aging continued to work with local agencies to address disaster planning for senior and disabled residents as a priority for the City of Oakland. The Commission has participated with the Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities to reach out to the senior residents in Oakland to ensure that they have information about the resources available in the event of a disaster or emergency. The Commission on Aging has had two meetings to learn more about the City's Mass Care and Shelter Plan, and about the services and disaster-readiness options for seniors and persons with disabilities.

In 2009, the Commission on Aging began to cooperate more directly with the Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities (MCPD). The first joint initiative of the two boards was a survey of Oakland seniors and persons with disabilities which was drafted by the MCPD Education, Employment and Outreach Committee, with input from the Commission on Aging. The survey was distributed at all of the Oakland senior centers, and at the May 2009 Older American's Month event. Information from the survey will allow the MCPD and the Commission on Aging to identify and respond to issues of concern to Oakland seniors and persons with disabilities. This Report contains a recommendation that the Commission on Aging be provided with a seat on one or more of the MCPD committees, so that the two committees can work more closely together to meet the needs of Oakland's frail, disabled, and senior residents.

***Issues and Concerns:***

In Fall 2009 the Commission on Aging held a retreat to develop objectives for the coming year, and to identify barriers. As in prior years, the Commission recognized that state budget cuts have resulted in severe hardship for Oakland's frail and low-income senior residents. In prior years the Senior Services Set-Aside grant funds were available to help the Commission to respond to the increased needs, but now for the first time this Commission was forced to respond to the elimination of the City's funding support.

At the Commission on Aging retreat in September of 2009 we recognized that the Commission on Aging was at a crossroads. The Senior Services Set-Aside program, which had in the past been a major activity for the Commission, had been eliminated. In addition, the administrative budget for the Commission was eliminated, reducing the opportunities for commissioners to do outreach and travel for meetings and events.

The Commission on Aging retreat provided an opportunity to identify the direction for the Commission, and ensure that the Board continued to be a responsive advocate for Oakland seniors. In the recommendation that follows, we address those issues by requesting that the Commission on Aging have a more coordinated and cooperative role with other City boards and commissions in the future.

The Commission on Aging recognizes the increasing diversity of Oakland's senior residents, and is committed to ensuring that the Oakland Multipurpose Senior Centers are welcoming places for all seniors – regardless of ethnicity, sexual orientation, or economic status. Towards that end the Commission on Aging has been discussing how best to facilitate "cultural competency" among the staff and the members of the City's senior centers.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Commission on Aging should move forward to support and respond to the needs of senior residents of Oakland. To do so we will continue to share information with City leaders, and serve as a public advocate for the City of Oakland's senior population through public hearings, complaint resolution, and identification of emerging senior issues. In order to fulfill the Commission's mandate it is important to have a reliable quorum and a full board, and staff will continue to solicit senior leaders to participate on the Commission and work with the Mayor's staff to facilitate appointments. The Commission on Aging will continue to work closely with DHS to expand services and advocate for full state and federal funding of critical safety net services for seniors.

At this time, given the elimination of funding for the Senior Services Set-Aside grants to local senior service organizations and the Commission on Aging administrative budget, it is necessary for the body to reassess priorities and develop new partnerships. The current meetings schedule was appropriate when the Commission had the authority and responsibility for distribution and oversight of Senior Services Set-Aside grant funding; staff and members agree that the monthly meeting schedule is no longer necessary and does not allow for extensive participation by commissioners on other local advocacy groups. Staff has also found that it is difficult to prepare and conduct outreach for meetings on a monthly basis given the elimination of the Commission on Aging administrative budget. For these reasons a quarterly meeting schedule would be more effective.

According to the Ordinance No. 9921 C.M.S., establishing the Mayor's Commission on Aging, as amended by Ordinance No. 11773 C.M.S., "The Commission shall render advice and assistance to other City boards and commissions ... on matters affecting the aging in the community." In order to do so, the Commission on Aging has proposed to participate more directly and fully on the Mayor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities. In the past 18 months, beginning with the development of a joint survey, and our advocacy in support of the Functional Needs Annex for Mass Care and Shelter, the Commission on Aging has undertaken a more cooperative and supportive relationship with the Mayor's Commission for Persons With Disabilities. Members of the Mayor's Commission on Aging determined that a more formal and direct relationship with the Mayor's Commission for Persons With Disabilities would be an effective use of resources, and a way to improve advocacy for Oakland residents. After discussion of the issues at their organizational retreat, the Mayor's Commission on Persons With Disabilities has agreed, and voiced support for more collaboration between the two bodies.

At this time the Commission respectfully requests the City Council approve a revision to the Commission on Aging meeting schedule to establish that regular meetings are held quarterly. We also request the City Council's approval of the participation of one or more members of the Commission on Aging on the committees of the Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities.

Respectfully submitted,



**ANTOINETTE WARREN WILLIAMS**

**Chair, Mayor's Commission on Aging**

Prepared by: Tracy Jensen, Senior Services Administrator

Item: \_\_\_\_\_  
Life Enrichment Committee